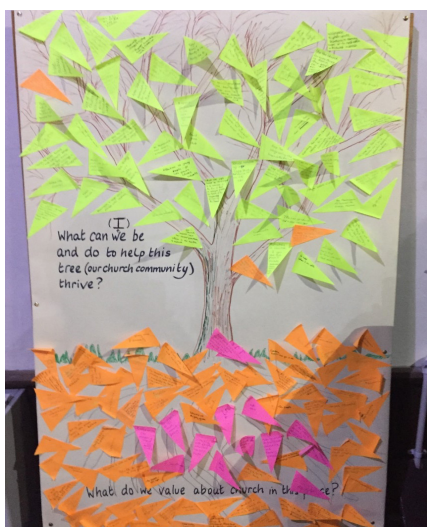


# St Mary the Virgin, Embsay with Eastby Parish Brochure 2019





Eastby village



Welcome to Embsay

## Welcome

We welcome your interest in becoming the next vicar of Embsay with Eastby. In the following pages we have set out the local and church contexts, our priorities and our expectations for the new incumbent. We are keen to find someone who will work collaboratively with us to advance God's work in this community.

## The local context

Our church, St Mary the Virgin, is situated between the two communities of Embsay and Eastby. This rural location, on the southern fringe of the Yorkshire Dales National Park benefits from the close proximity to Skipton with its local services, historic castle, attractive canal basin, street market on four days of the week and wide range of schools. There is a regular train service to Leeds, Bradford, and once a day, a direct train service to London, King's Cross Station. The villages have excellent access to the Dales for outdoor enthusiasts, who enjoy walking, cycling, sailing and bird watching, and who want to live within a village community but also want to be near the amenities that Skipton has to offer. It is a popular place to live, for young people, families and people in retirement. As a young mum who moved into Embsay 9 months ago said:

*Everything is on our doorstep – a village shop and Post Office, two pubs both serving good food, a gym for the adults and a recreation ground with exciting play equipment for the children, a hairdresser, a library, an excellent church primary school and a Children's Centre providing childcare. There's loads going on for a small village, in the Village Institute, the Methodist Church Hall and lots of groups to get involved with. The Embsay Steam Railway often has special events and if you want a walk there are endless choices. Whether it's a walk round the reservoir, up Embsay Crag, to the Yorkshire Dales Ice Cream Farm, into Skipton Woods or on to Barden Moor there's no need to drive anywhere to get started and if you want a night out you can walk.*

In 2011, the population was 1,879 with 99% classified by the census as 'White British'. 1,345 were aged between 16 and 74 and 70% of these were economically active, mostly being involved in the service industries. One fifth of the population was retired and unemployment was less than 1%. Many people travel out of the village to work in Skipton, Leeds, Bradford and Lancashire towns. Current house building will increase the population of Embsay to over 2000 in the next five years. Houses don't stay on the market for long.





Ecumenical activity

## The Diocesan context

The Diocese of Leeds comprises five Episcopal Areas, each coterminous with an Archdeaconry. This is now one of the largest dioceses in the country and its creation is unprecedented in the history of the Church of England. It covers an area of around 2,425 square miles, and a population of around 2,642,400 people.

The three former dioceses were created in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to cater for massive population changes brought about by industrialisation and, later, mass immigration. The diocese comprises major cities (Bradford, Leeds, Wakefield), large industrial and post-industrial towns (Halifax, Huddersfield, Dewsbury), a spa town (Harrogate), market towns (Skipton, Ripon, Richmond and Wetherby), and deeply rural areas (the Dales). The whole of life is here, along with all the richness, diversity and complexities of a changing world.

The Diocesan Bishop (The Rt Revd Nick Baines) is assisted by five Area Bishops (Bradford, Huddersfield, Kirkstall, Wakefield and Ripon) and five archdeacons (Bradford, Halifax, Leeds, Pontefract, Richmond & Craven). The Bishop of Ripon is the Rt Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley.

Our vision as the Diocese is about confident clergy equipping confident Christians to live and tell the good news of Jesus Christ. For all of our appointments we are seeking clergy who have a joyful and confident faith which has inspired a track record of church growth, both numerically and spiritually.



After service coffee and chat



Anglican and Methodist collaboration

## We can offer you:

### An enthusiastic and active worshipping community.

St Mary's is a village church which aims to cater for all comers whatever their churchmanship. There are currently seventy-one people on the electoral roll, twelve of whom live outside the parish. We are a welcoming and friendly church community; the building is open every day for quiet prayer and meditation from 9.15am when Morning Prayer finishes until dusk.

### Our pattern of worship

**Parish Communion** - Congregations on Sundays vary between thirty-five and forty-five for the main service. On the three Sundays when there is Eucharist the congregation comprises mainly older people. Nine regular members of our congregation live outside the parish, in Skipton.

**All Age Worship** - On the first Sunday of the month All Age Worship (AAW) is an informal, shorter, lively service that is usually led by a lay person. We have a band at AAW with members ranging in age from ten to eighty plus. The service is planned by a small team that meets every couple of months. We try to involve as many people as possible and often have dramatised readings and sometimes fluid forms of worship. There is a table for children's craft activities that are carefully chosen to relate to the theme of the service. The number of families attending this service varies considerably (family holiday times have an impact) but on average when there isn't a baptism in the service there can be six children and two young people from five families, and thirty adults.

**Family Communion** - The service on the third Sunday of the month is a shorter form of service and is intended to attract the families who attend All Age Worship. A table is set out with activities for children and there is always a selection of children's books and project bags available at the back of the church. This change has not really got off the ground and looking for appropriate worship patterns for young families remains a priority.

**Weekday Communion** - The Holy Communion services on Tuesday morning and at 11.15am on the first Sunday of the month are quiet Communion services with an average attendance of eight older people who enjoy a chance for coffee and chat afterwards.





St Mary's people

Headteacher - Fiona Prest

**Smiley Faces – Toddler Praise** - This Friday afternoon group is for pre-school children and their parents, grandparents and carers. It is led by lay people with no direct clergy involvement. One of the leaders is a steward at the village Methodist Church. There are thirty children and twenty families on the register. Numbers vary from week to week between eight and twenty-four. Most families are from the village and the ones who attend regularly do not generally attend All Age worship services. Nevertheless, they consider the Friday afternoon slot to be their 'church' and support church social events.

**Our Worship Style** - Clergy wear an alb, chasuble and stole for communion services; liturgy is Common Worship except for BCP once a month. Our musical tradition is wide ranging and we benefit from a small choir, a team of organists and a large band which plays at All Age Worship.

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	9.30am	All –Age Worship usually with St Mary's Band
	11.15am	BCP Holy Communion
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	9.30am	Family Communion Service
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	10.00am	Joint service with the Methodists – venue alternates
Every weekday	8.30am	Morning Prayer
Every Tuesday	10.30am	Quiet Communion Service
Every Friday during term time	1.45pm	Smiley Faces – Toddler Praise



Ecumenical pilgrimage to Bolton Priory



Celebrating a birthday at Smiley Faces

**Beyond the regular services** - There are opportunities to participate in bible study and discussion groups. Two six-week courses have recently been held in the village pubs and have attracted not only St Mary's people but also village residents who attend the Methodist Church in Embsay and the United Reform Church in Skipton. During the summer, our associate priest and retired vicar led a Pilgrim course, a 'Christian basics' discussion group. One member of that group was subsequently confirmed in July. There is a house prayer group which meets on Monday afternoons and welcomes the wider church family within the village.

The Skipton Churches Mothers Union meets once a month in St Mary's and has a varied programme of speakers. This small group is active in carrying out prayerful, valuable, but often unseen work, both in the parish and more widely. Most members are from the parish. All their meetings are open to non-members and include a Communion service in September and a Lenten meditation.

The Vision 2030 exercise that took place largely when our previous vicar was on sabbatical during the summer of 2017, under the guidance of Revd Robin Greenwood (author of *Sharing God's Blessings*) set a series of priorities for development at St Mary's, which have been built into our Plan for Growth. This plan guides the activity of the church and is regularly monitored at PCC meetings.

## Clergy and lay support

We have a non-stipendiary associate priest who lives in Embsay and is a foundation governor at the village primary school. Revd Tim Calow enjoys his role leading worship and in pastoral care for the community. He is also active as a police chaplain in Skipton and as Chair of the Aire Valley Rail Users Group. Together with Revd Bob Mitchell, a retired vicar who has recently moved into the area, he is taking most services and occasional offices during the vacancy. We also have an established and active All Age Worship team of four lay people who work well together and with the clergy.

There are two lay Eucharistic assistants who distribute Communion at Laurel Croft (retirement housing managed by Yorkshire Housing located in the centre of Embsay) on a monthly basis and take Communion to residents in their homes as required. Eight chalice assistants assist with Communion services, in pairs, by rota. Five members of the St Mary's community carry out pastoral visiting, four are lay people and the fifth is our associate priest. Morning Prayer is said every weekday morning and usually led by one of the lay Eucharistic assistants.





Walking for Christian Aid



Snail Racing at the Vicarage garden party

## Administrative support

We employ an experienced administrator who works three hours a week from home to provide support to the vicar. This includes collating monthly Sunday by Sunday and individual Sunday rotas and distributing via email to the church members on duty. She produces the skeleton weekly news sheet, promotional posters, a hymn book, a database and looks after the church website. Two experienced churchwardens work closely with clergy, the PCC secretary, the treasurer, the PCC and the church members to ensure that rotas are in place for readers, intercessors, sides people, the offertory, chalice assistants, organists and coffee after Sunday morning services. All relevant church members have up-to-date DBS and safeguarding training, our PCC is safeguarding-compliant and we also have a volunteer safeguarding officer. We have an environmental champion with two helpers, a disability representative and two representatives on the Skipton Deanery Synod. We are blessed to be able to draw on a wide range of talent and professional skills from our congregations when needed.

## A lively and varied local community

St Mary's plays an integral part in both villages through the development of discipleship and social action. Members contribute to and frequently take leading roles in local activities, among which are:

[Embsay and Eastby Good Neighbours](#) (EEGN) has been operating for three years and is run entirely by volunteers. Our previous vicar and the church steward from the Methodist Church in the village were instrumental in setting up the scheme which is greatly valued by residents and volunteers. Many volunteers are members of our congregation as are the volunteer coordinator, chairperson and secretary. A comment on the Embsay Update Facebook page last week, from the daughter of a 90 year old man, befriended by one of the volunteers, sums up the feeling of many, "although the family can visit in the evenings and weekends, he finds the days very long on his own...so he really looks forward to his befriender's visits, made particularly good as they share a love of the country and gardening".

[Tuesday Teas](#) takes place every week from 2pm to 4pm in church. Volunteers from the church family, and recently from the wider village, bake and welcome a core of regulars as well as a varied sample of visitors to the area and passers-by.



Silk Screen Collaborative Project with Embsay C of E Voluntary Controlled Primary School

[Embsay CE Primary School](#) - We are proud of strong links with our local school. Church members volunteer in the school and our previous vicar led collective worship every fortnight, alternating with the Methodist minister. The continuation of this commitment is considered to be a priority in the vacancy; the churchwardens (both retired teachers) and associate vicar are sharing this. The school brings classes of 30 children to St Mary's for history projects and as part of the RE syllabus. It uses the church for services at Christmas and on other significant times in the church year. The Yr6 Leavers service is held in the church every year. Recently several church members have worked with children from each class in school to create silk wall hangings which are an amalgamation of the work of the children. The hangings depict themes that the children discussed with their teachers, e.g. the Creation, Noah's ark and the Trinity. They are now an attractive feature in the church. Maintaining and developing links with our village primary school will be a priority for our new vicar.

[Embsay Methodist Church](#) The ecumenical link with the Methodist Church in the village is a strong one and valued by both parties. We worship together on fifth Sundays in the month and share the Mothering Sunday and Remembrance Sunday services and the long established Carols around the Elm Tree on Christmas Eve. The latter is a special community event with a large turnout of families. Church members from both churches do house to house collections in the village during Christian Aid week and support one another's events. This year we had a varied programme of discussion and meditation during Lent. During our last lunch together the leadership team of both churches decided that it would be good to have an Away Day together focussing on prayer. We are going to Scargill House, a nearby Christian Conference Centre, at the end of September.

[Fairtrade](#) - The church has a Fairtrade stall which is taken to events in the village and elsewhere, including the Village Show, the School Summer Fair, Fairtrade breakfasts, coffee mornings and Sheep Day in Skipton. We are proud to be a Fairtrade Church, in a Fairtrade village and delighted that Embsay school has Fairachiever status. We work together with children from the school who help on the Fairtrade stall in the Christmas Bazaar and the Lent Lunch. This year we planned a joint afternoon tea and cake event in the Methodist Church Hall as part of the renewal of their Fairachiever status.





One of our churchyard history tours



Good Friday craft workshop

[Our Churchyard Research Group](#) - St Mary's has a thriving and committed churchyard history group, whose members have researched the stories of those buried in the churchyard and led fascinating Churchyard Open Days and Village History Walks. They have also carried out a thorough survey of the churchyard in partnership with experts from The University of York and, using digital techniques (Reflectance Transformation Imaging) have recovered hidden inscriptions on eroded and lichen covered headstones. Some of the group are now helping and advising nine other churches and heritage groups, one as far away as West Sussex. The team has given a live interview on Radio York, has appeared on 'Look North' Cumbria and Yorkshire and their work has appeared in many online publications including an article in National Geographic magazine.

[Outside giving](#) - Caring for our neighbours near and far is important for the people of St Mary's. The PCC is committed to giving 5% of our regular income to charity. It usually amounts to around £2,000 and members of the congregation are asked to nominate local, national and international charities.

[Secular links](#) - There are significant links with secular aspects of both villages where the previous vicar was well-known and valued by those who do not attend church except on special occasions. We try to keep in touch with families who have been bereaved, families who have brought their children to be baptised and couples who have been married at St Mary's. There is an annual Bereavement Service in November and all children who have been baptised receive a birthday card until they move to secondary school. Extending the secular links that we have into a fuller engagement with our worship is one of the priorities which we shall share with our new vicar.



St Mary the Virgin Embsay with Eastby



The Vicarage

## **An attractive church in a good state of repair**

St Mary's was built in the mid C19th although there was a priory on the site before it moved to nearby Bolton Abbey in the C12th. There is no church hall or meeting room but Embsay village has a well-equipped Institute hall and the Methodist school room in the village is used by the community for a wide range of activities.

St Mary's church building is in good condition; the 2019 quinquennial inspection found no urgent items for attention beyond those already in hand. In the last five years there have been two significant fabric projects. The first: "A Roof for Our Future – Discovering the Past" coupled a major restoration of the roof with a project to map the churchyard and collect the stories of those who are buried there. Secondly, in 2018/19 we have been running "Looking Both Ways -Windows for The Church and Community". This has featured the restoration of stained and clear glass windows in the church alongside a project run in the village school on stained glass windows and the stories they tell. The two projects also generated locally researched publications about the church. Both these fabric projects attracted substantial grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund; they were completed on schedule and within budget.

The PCC sees the care of the fabric as being a lay responsibility. Routine maintenance of the building is covered by a maintenance plan, monitored by one of the churchwardens and two members of the congregation, which is reported to the PCC as an agenda item. This has enabled us to identify and address items in a timely way. We have a nominated church architect with whom we have a good working relationship.

## **A spacious, centrally located vicarage**

The vicarage is a Victorian family house with an attractive garden, large garage and ample parking. The main accommodation and bedrooms are light, well carpeted and in reasonable decorative order. The kitchen and bathroom both need attention and an upgrade of the kitchen has been approved by the diocese with details to be agreed with the new incumbent on appointment. Further insulation and work on the bathroom are the subject of ongoing discussions.





Stained Glass Window Workshop



St Mary the Virgin Embsay with Eastby

## Financing our Church

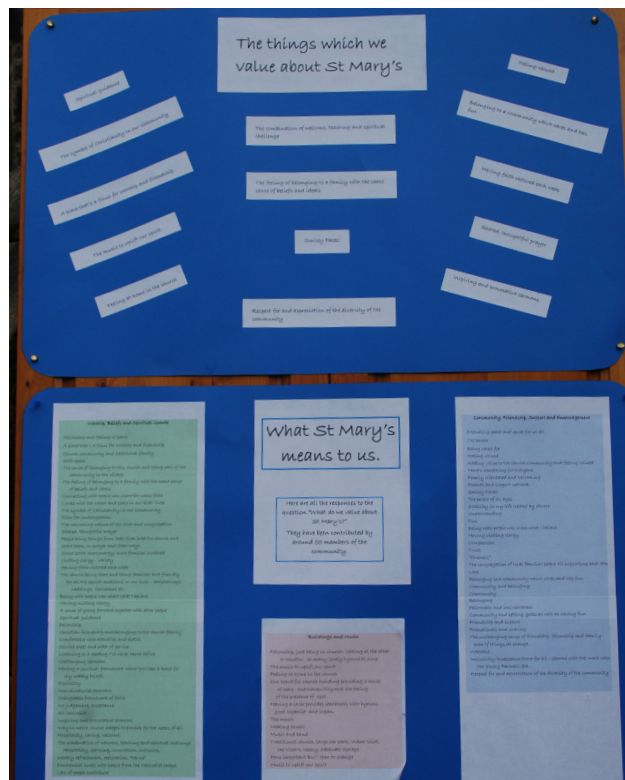
St Mary's has been very successful in raising funds for much-needed capital works as described in the previous section and we have paid our share in full in recent years. There is an issue, however, with the share formula which applies a three times multiplier to the standard share for this parish based on a measure of relative wealth and increases the share by 10% annually towards that target. In the last two years we have needed to draw on reserves to meet that increase. Constructive discussions with the diocese have led to the freezing of the share at an agreed level pending the forthcoming review of the share formula in 2020. In the meantime we are working with the Diocesan Stewardship team and identifying ways of increasing our income; we are one of the pilots for the Parish Giving Scheme in advance of its launch across the Diocese in January 2020.

Planning has begun for a review of our income which will be launched in Autumn 2019. Beyond our participation in the Parish Giving pilot further involvement with the congregation is expected, as well as the wider village community, with the twin aims of increasing income from planned giving and raising the proportion of giving that attracts Gift Aid. Implementing the steps identified in this income review in order to establish and maintain a stable funding base for the work of St Mary's is one of the key priorities for our church going forward.

St Mary's has received modest legacies over recent years which have been used in the main to support capital projects. We have no endowments. Our annual Gift Day is a significant source of our income, in preparation for which every house in the village receives a hand-delivered letter and donation envelope. In 2018 we received donations amounting to £3400. Our programme of events throughout the year, which has the dual aim of fundraising as well as providing enjoyable social activities for the wider community, has been widened in 2019 and should lead to increased income. Clergy expenses are a core item in our budget, and we shall agree those at an appropriate level with the new vicar.

## Our commitment to you

We will do everything we can to help and support you in what we know to be a demanding and challenging dual role as vicar of our parish and Clergy Development Officer for the Episcopal Area. Collaborative working is a strength of St Mary's and there is a strong culture of lay involvement in all aspects of church life. You will have our prayers, encouragement and friendship. You will be urged to take time off for holidays, time out during the week for rest and relaxation and time away for retreat and training. We will pay all your reasonable clergy expenses promptly. We think this is a wonderful place to live and work and we look forward to welcoming the right person to the role.



## Plan for Growth - our values

## Our Vicar

You will not be alone. You will be joining an energetic, friendly and committed worshipping community in these villages. You will be supported in your ministry by our associate priest Tim Calow, a retired priest Bob Mitchell and a team of active lay members.

- ☐ We look forward to worshipping and working with someone who puts prayer at the centre of their own life and that of the church. You will be someone who can inspire but also challenge us. You will be comfortable working collaboratively in a team, able to take a lead as well as to share leadership. You will be an active listener as well as an effective communicator.
- ☐ You will be able to speak in ordinary ways about God and help us to build links with people who are not regular church attenders.
- ☐ As our church grows you will encourage and guide lay people in shared ministry while being sensitive to the varying traditions represented in the parish.
- ☐ You will be someone for whom social action is an important part of your ministry and will encourage others to share in that.
- ☐ You will work with us to build stronger links with other worshipping communities both within the villages and in Skipton.

As well as all these positive characteristics you will need the capacity to say “No”. You are going to be sharing the role here with a wider job in the diocese. It will be important for you and for us that you can be clear about what you can and cannot do in the available time. For our part, we will do our best to support you in some realistic time management. Included within that is the recognition that you need time for your own spiritual and personal development.

We look forward to meeting you.





Looking towards Embsay from Eastby Brow

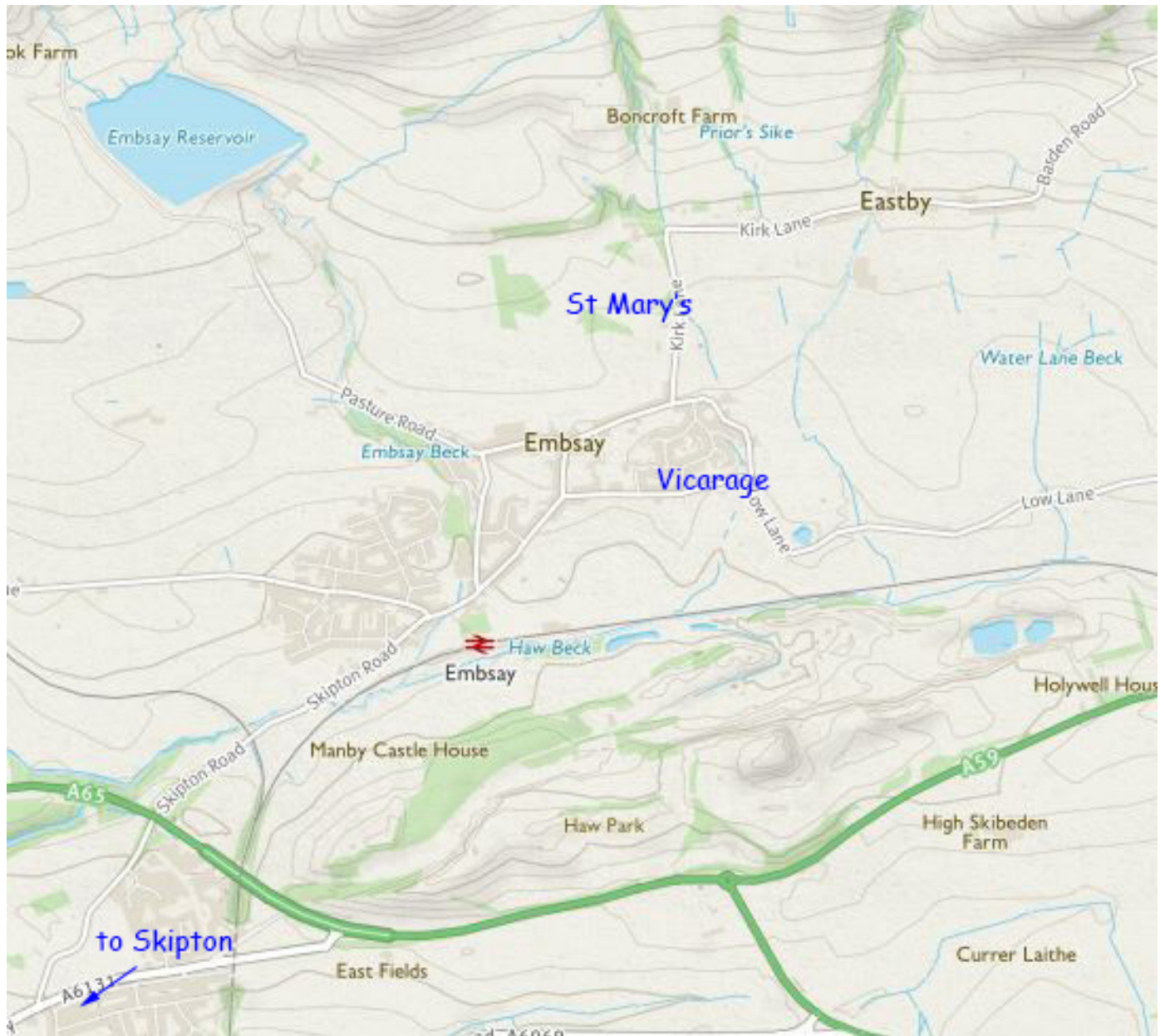


St Mary's stall at Burnsall Charities Day May 2018

## The Wider Context

The population of Embsay and Eastby spans a broad range of ages and economic activity. We are aware that there is a significant part of that population which, while not appearing in church on Sundays, values having a church and vicar present within the village. We are looking for a spiritual leader to work with us in nurturing the church's work with busy adults and furthering our contact with young families and children.

The St Mary's community values its place as a village church serving Embsay and Eastby but we are not inward-looking. We are growing our links with the Methodist community here and enjoy the links which we have with Christ Church in Skipton. The previous vicar here was active in Churches Together in Skipton, but that organisation has been in a quieter phase recently. It is our hope that the vacancy at St Mary's and the coincident vacancy at Holy Trinity in Skipton may facilitate a refreshment of that collaboration. We see this not only in terms of the benefits which would accrue to the worshipping communities but also the opportunities for informal collaboration which might offer support for the clergy. We welcome full participation of women and men in all aspects of the ministry and at every level.



## Find out more about us

Our church is open during the day, 7 days a week. Follow these links to our

Website <http://www.stmaryembsay.org.uk/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/stmaryschurch.embsay/>

Vacancy details are on the Leeds Diocesan and Pathways websites. The first contact for further information being Area Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley, [Bishop.Helenann@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:Bishop.Helenann@leeds.anglican.org)